



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



# Tennessee News Release

Tennessee Field Office · PO Box 41505 · Nashville, TN 37204 · (615) 781-5300 · [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)  
In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

## 2012 HARVEST ABOUT “WRAPPED UP”...UPDATED RESULTS NOW PUBLISHED

**NASHVILLE, November 9, 2012** – Mild autumn weather facilitated a smooth harvest for Tennessee farmers. Corn harvest was virtually complete in early October, about three weeks earlier than normal. Soybean and cotton harvests are winding down, with about 80 percent of these acres harvested by November 1. State Director Debra Kenerson commented about this year’s unusual crop year and stated, “Given the extent of this year’s drought, the 2012 season has turned out surprisingly well for most farmers, with corn being the exception.” The results from a recent survey of farmers conducted by the Tennessee Field Office of USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service indicated better soybean and cotton prospects than indicated just one month ago, while the resulting estimates for corn remained steady. In brief, this forecast showed the following: **Corn**, 89 bushels per acre, unchanged from a month ago but down 42 bushels from the previous year’s yield of 131 bushels; **Cotton**, 896 pounds per acre, up 64 pounds per acre from last month’s forecast and up 100 pounds from last year; **Soybeans**, 36 bushels per acre, up 1 bushel from indications a month ago and up 4 bushels from 2011.

### COTTON PRODUCTION EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

Tennessee’s cotton production is projected at 700,000 bales, down 14 percent from last year’s production of 813,000 bales but up 50,000 bales from the expectations of one month ago. Cotton yields are forecast to average 896 pounds per acre, up 64 pounds per acre from last month’s forecast and up 100 pounds per acre from the previous year. Producers expect to harvest 375,000 acres, down 115,000 acres from 2011. Good harvesting conditions persisted during October and 86 percent of the cotton acreage has been harvested. The crop is yielding exceptionally well and, if realized, would be the highest state average yield per acre since 2008.

### 2012 SOYBEAN CROP WINDS DOWN THE SEASON WITH ABOVE AVERAGE YIELDS

Soybean production is anticipated to be 43.9 million bushels, up 9 percent from the 2011 production. Soybean yields are projected at 36.0 bushels per acre, an increase of 4 bushels from 2011 and up 1 bushel from last month. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 1.22 million acres, down 40,000 from a year ago. Excellent harvesting conditions allowed growers to gather about 80 percent of the crop by November 1. Soybean yields are expected to be better than average thanks to plentiful rain in late summer and fall.

### 2012 CORN YIELD LOWEST SINCE 1993, BUT TOTAL PRODUCTION EXCEEDS THE NORM

On the strength of increased harvested acreage, Tennessee’s corn production is forecast at 86.3 million bushels, unchanged from a month ago but down 10 percent from a year ago. Yields are expected to average 89 bushels per acre, down significantly from 131 bushels per acre in 2011. If this forecast comes to fruition, this will be the lowest yielding crop in almost twenty years. Farmers harvested 970,000 acres for grain, 235,000 more than last year. Corn harvest was virtually complete by mid-October, about three weeks ahead of the normal pace. Ultimately, the season ended with an above average total production for the state, despite this year’s drought and low yields. This was due to growers planting 240,000 more acres this year, the most since 1961.

**(OVER)**

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# **CROP FORECASTS: TENNESSEE AND UNITED STATES, NOVEMBER 1, 2012, WITH COMPARISONS**

Crop	Units	Harvested Acres		Yield Per Acre		Production	
		2011	Indicated 2012	2011	Indicated 2012	2011	Indicated 2012
		Thousands		Number of Units		Thousands	
<b>TENNESSEE</b>							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	8,500	7,500
Corn for grain	bu.	735	970	131.0	89.0	96,285	86,330
Cotton <sup>1</sup>	lb.	490	375	796	896	813	700
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	1,860	1,790	2.10	2.00	3,906	3,580
Soybeans	bu.	1,260	1,220	32.0	36.0	40,320	43,920
Tobacco, All	lb.	22.0	23.8	2,062	2,279	45,363	54,230
Dark fire-cured	lb.	6.9	6.8	2,890	3,100	19,941	21,080
Burley	lb.	14.0	16.0	1,610	1,900	22,540	30,400
Dark air-cured	lb.	1.1	1.0	2,620	2,750	2,882	2,750
Winter Wheat	bu.	310	340	69.0	63.0	21,390	21,420
<b>UNITED STATES</b>							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	9,420,000	8,065,700
Corn for grain	bu.	83,981	87,721	147.2	122.0	12,358,412	10,725,191
Cotton <sup>1</sup>	lb.	9,460.9	10,443.4	790	802	15,573.2	17,447.0
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	36,420	38,762	1.81	1.71	65,812	66,408
Soybeans	bu.	73,776	75,693	41.9	39.3	3,093,524	2,971,022
Tobacco, All	lb.	325.04	338.08	1,841	2,308	598,320	780,428
Dark fire-cured	lb.	16.40	16.18	3,154	3,293	51,721	53,283
Burley	lb.	88.90	101.10	1,938	2,001	172,265	202,255
Dark air-cured	lb.	5.50	5.20	2,924	2,871	16,082	14,930
Winter Wheat	bu.	32,314	34,834	46.2	47.2	1,493,677	1,645,202

<sup>1</sup> Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. U.S. production includes American-Pima cotton.

##

*Find agricultural statistics for your County, State, and the Nation at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)*